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Korea's Influence List Ridiculous—Park

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Tongsun Park has testified under oath that Korean intelligence officials provided a list in 1975 of congressmen they wanted to influence, but he considered it "ridiculous because . . . I was doing that on my own anyway," it has been learned.

The South Korean rice dealer emphatically denied to U.S. prosecutors, according to still-secret transcripts of his recent 17 days of testimony in Seoul, that he ever worked for the Korean government or delivered bribes on its behalf to congressmen.

"Whatever I did, I did in my own individual capacity without any outside interference or instructions," he testified under an agreement providing immunity from prosecution.

During the testimony Park submitted to some 25 lie detector checks, the results of which have not been made public.

The indicted millionaire, now a witness in the alleged Korean bribery scandal in Congress, was asked to return today for more closed-door House ethics committee hearings. He said his testimony before the panel resembles the thrust of testimony in Seoul.

The Justice Department transcripts, portions of which were made

available to UPI, showed that Park admitted receiving the Korean Central Intelligence Agency's so-called 1975 "Ice Mountain" plan.

Park said the document included a list of U.S. officials the Seoul government sought to influence.

DEFECTED KOREAN intelligence agents have told federal investigators of such a plan.

The one-time Washington socialite testified he did not take it seriously.

"I always made it a policy not to make (an) enemy out of anybody," he said. "I thought the whole thing was ridiculous because if I wanted to be helpful to anybody, especially in terms of enhancing relations between two countries, I was doing that on my own anyway."

According to the transcripts, Park also said in sworn testimony:

- He never had heard of Korean-born businessman Hanchu Kim, who has been indicted on charges of conspiring to spread \$600,000 among U.S. officials until he read about Kim in the newspapers.

- He gave about \$750,000 in cash and gifts to congressmen but considered all but a few of the payments campaign contributions. He chummed around with congressmen partially

out of "fear" that his personal success would be wiped out if Korea lost its military security.

PARK'S TESTIMONY yesterday drew a strong reaction from members of the ethics panel.

"We covered the most odious episode in the story today," Rep. Bruce Caputo, R-N.Y., said after the closed-door session.

Rep. Millicent Fenwick, R-N.J., said, "the whole thing is ugly."



—Associated Press